

## Retirements - Retirement Eligibility

30-OCT-2018

## Required

**Applicable to: Active Duty**

## Eligibility

You are eligible to retire when you complete 20 or more years of Total Active Federal Military Service (TAFMS) and, for officers, 10 or more years of Total Active Federal Commissioned Service (TAFCS). You must also complete any active duty service commitments you incurred and not be pending adverse action such as administrative discharge or demotion. See [AFI 36-3203](#), table 2.1 and 2.2 for more information on eligibility restrictions.

You may submit a request for voluntary retirement up to 12 months, but no less than 120 days, before your requested retirement date. Title 5, United States Code §8301 sets the effective date of all non-disability service retirements as the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month.

Retirement approval lies with the Secretary of the Air Force or designees.

The following table provides the legal authorities for service retirements.

Rule	If you are a	then authority for retirement is 10 USC Section:
1	Regular or Reserve officer who has at least 20 years TAFMS, including 10 years TAFCS, and meet the time-in-grade requirements shown in AFI 36-3203, table 2.2 and Chapter 7 (see note)	8911
2	Regular officer who has at least 30 years active service as of retirement date	8918
3	Regular or Reserve officer who has at least 40 years active service as of retirement date	8924
4	Regular enlisted member who holds a valid appointment as a Reserve officer and who has active commissioned service as prescribed in rule 1	8911
5	Regular or Reserve enlisted member who has at least 20 years but less than 30 years active service as of retirement date	8914
6	Regular enlisted member who has at least 30 years active service as of retirement date	8917

Note: Officers with less than 10 years of TAFCS who wish to retire may request to resign their commissioned to retire in enlisted status; however, approval is very RARE. See [AFI 36-3203](#), paragraph 3.5, for more information on this process.

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